CAG's Enquiry in Import of Accident Relief Cranes

4365. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether enquiry has been completed in respect of controversial import of accident relief cranes, pointed out by the C.A.G.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to meet the full demand of Railways' requirement in this regard indigenously ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIIAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Jamalpur Workshop of Eastern Railway has so far successfully manufactured four 140 Tonne diesel Hydraulic Breakdown Cranes. There is a plan to indigenously manufacture about 4 cranes per year at Jamalpur workshop of Eastern Railway and also at Parel Workshop of Central Railway depending upon availability of funds and the need to replace low capacity steam cranes.

Import of Cranes

4366. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have imported cranes for accident relief during the last one decade;

(b) if so, the details of such cranes imported and total value thereof;

(c) the reasons of importing such cranes, by ignoring indigenous manufacturers;

(d) whether Government would investigate the deals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways had placed two orders for procurement of 140 Tonne Accident Relief Cranes against a tender opened in February'1996. One order was placed on M/s Mannesmann Gottwald, Germany with total FOB value as